WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for detecting the presence of an autoantibody comprising:

a) mixing a fluid sample suspected of containing the autoantibody with a labeled receptor, the receptor having a specific binding site for said autoantibody;

b) contacting the mixture from step (a) with a solid phase to which is bound a binding pair member that will bind to the labeled receptor in an amount related to the presence or amount of autoantibody present in the sample;

c) separating the solid phase from the liquid phase;

d) determining the presence or amount of autoantibody by determining the presence or amount of labeled receptor remaining in the liquid phase or bound to the binding pair on the solid phase.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising mixing an interference blocking reagent that will bind to a substance in the fluid sample, said substance being capable of binding to the autoantibody binding site of the labeled receptor and wherein the interference blocking reagent is mixed with the fluid sample prior to or simultaneously with the labeled receptor.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the labeled receptor is labeled intrinsic factor and the autoantibody binds to intrinsic factor at a binding site that when the autoantibody is bound thereto will block the binding of vitamin B12 to the intrinsic factor receptor.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising mixing an interference blocking reagent with the fluid sample prior to or simultaneously with the labeled intrinsic factor, wherein the interference blocking reagent specifically binds to vitamin B12.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the binding pair member bound to the solid phase is a monoclonal antibody.

6. A method for detecting anti-intrinsic factor autoantibody in a fluid sample comprising:

a) adding labeled intrinsic factor to the fluid sample, the labeled intrinsic having a binding site to which anti-intrinsic autoantibody will bind competitively with any vitamin B12 present in the fluid sample;

b) adding an interference blocking reagent with the fluid sample prior to or simultaneously with the labeled intrinsic factor, the interference blocking reagent being capable of specifically binding to vitamin B12;

c) adding to the mixture of (a) and (b) a solid phase to which is bound a binding pair member that will bind labeled intrinsic factor in an amount related to the presence or amount of autoantibody present in the fluid sample; and

d) determining the presence or amount of autoantibody by determining the presence or amount of labeled intrinsic factor remaining in the liquid phase or bound to the binding pair member on the solid phase.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the binding pair member is an antibody that will bind to labeled intrinsic factor only when the intrinsic factor is not bound to autoantibodies present in the sample.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the presence of the labeled intrinsic factor is determined using a detection system.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the detection system includes the use of a label selected from the group consisting of a radioisotope, an enzyme, a substrate of an

enzyme reaction, a fluorescent label and a chemiluminescent label and means for detecting such labels.

10. The method of claim 6 wherein the label is an enzyme.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the label is alkaline phosphatase.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising separating the solid phase with bound labeled intrinsic factor from the liquid phase and mixing the solid phase with a chemiluminescent substrate.

13. A test kit for performing an assay to detect the presence or amount of autoantibody in a sample, said test kit comprising: (a) a container containing a labeled receptor, the receptor having a specific binding site for said autoantibody; (b) a container containing a binding pair member capable of binding to the labeled receptor at the binding site for the autoantibody, said binding pair member being bound to a solid phase; and (c) an interference blocking reagent that will specifically bind to a substance in the sample, the substance being capable of binding to the autoantibody binding site of the labeled receptor.

14. The test kit of claim 13 wherein said solid phase of (b) are paramagnetic particles.

15. The test kit of claim 13 wherein said label is selected from the group consisting of consisting of an enzyme, a substrate of an enzyme reaction, a fluorescent label and a chemiluminescent label.

16. The test kit of claim 13 wherein the labeled receptor is labeled intrinsic factor and the interference blocking reagent is capable of specifically binding to vitamin B12.

17. The test kit of claim 16 wherein the interference blocking reagent is an antibody to vitamin B12.

18. The test kit of claim 17 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

19. The test kit of claim 16 wherein the interference blocking reagent is R-protein.

20. The test kit of claim 16 wherein the label is alkaline phosphatase.

21. The test kit of claim 16 wherein the binding pair member is an anti-intrinsic factor antibody that binds to the vitamin B12 binding site of intrinsic factor and the solid phase are paramagnetic particles.

22. The test kit of claim 21 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.